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AS/A

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of :  
Nikolay V. Kuchuk, et al. :  
  
International Application No. PCT/US00/13555 : Group Art Unit:  
  
International Filing Date: May 17, 2000 : Examiner:  
  
For: PROCESS OF RAPID VARIETY-INDEPENDENT : Date: March 4, 2002  
PLANT TRANSFORMATION : X

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to initiation of the prosecution of the above-identified pending U.S. patent application, the following amendment and remarks are respectfully submitted.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, following the title, please insert the following heading and paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

A  
The present application claims benefit of United States Provisional Patent Application 60/134,459, filed May 17, 1999. The present application is also a §371 of International Application PCT/US00/13555, filed May 17, 2000. The disclosures of all of said applications are incorporated by reference herein.

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include a cross-reference to the prior application.

Applicant respectfully requests that this amendment be entered, and that prosecution on the merits of this application be initiated. If, however, for any reason the